

Library

Darlaston Urban District Council



REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1957

J. K. HEAGNEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

F. G. Ashcroft, M.S.I.A.,
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health For the year 1957.

*Public Health Department,
Town Hall,
Darlaston.*

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
DARLASTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1957.

Vital statistics for Darlaston :

Estimated population—22,200 (a rise of 60 on the previous year) shows that there were 195 deaths, and 362 live births during the year ; while there were 13 Still Births compared with 11 in 1956. The number of infants under one year who died was six. This is a welcome reduction on the previous year's figure of eight. The infant mortality rate is a fairly accurate indication of the environmental conditions into which children are born and in which they spend their first twelve months of life, and is closely related to the standards maintained in housing, the dietary, education, and medical care. It would be most satisfactory if the present infant mortality rate could be maintained, or even further reduced, as it compares very favourably with the National figures, but when smaller figures are being dealt with it is necessary to take these figures over a period of some years before an accurate picture is found.

The number of cases of infectious disease was 538, an increase over the 87 cases in the previous year, accounted for by 406 cases of measles, and also there were 128 cases of whooping cough during the year. A reminder to parents that immunisation against whooping cough, though not completely effective, does give a degree of protection against this common and sometimes fatal disease.

There were no cases of diphtheria during the year in this district, but the disease is still prevalent, and I would again impress on all the value of immunisation against diphtheria as a very effective method of prevention against this very grave disease.

Towards the end of the year a Mass Radiography survey was commenced in which 10,084 people were X-rayed. 11 active Tuberculosis cases were found, and over 120 other abnormalities discovered. This is a most helpful method of control of Tuberculosis and other chest diseases which still remain a major problem.

The big Slum Clearance Programme commenced in 1956 continued during the year. 110 houses were represented in Clearance Areas and 21 as individual unfit houses. The Council's policy of acquisition by agreement continued to be applied during the year.

In conclusion may I express my thanks to the Chairman, and Members of the Darlaston Urban District Council, and Members of the Public Health Committee, and all Chief Officers of other Departments, and to all members of the staff of the Public Health Department, for their helpful co-operation during the year, and assistance in the preparation of this report.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

J. K. HEAGNEY,

Medical Officer of Health.

STAFF.

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	J. K. Heagney, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
<i>Chief Public Health Inspector</i>		F. G. Ashcroft, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector</i>	.. ..	T. H. Meredith, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>District Public Health Inspector</i>	.. ..	D. Knight, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Pupil Public Health Inspectors</i>	.. ..	M. W. Bunch. W. E. Jevons.
<i>Senior Clerk</i>	.. ..	Mrs. F. Sharpe.
<i>Junior Clerk</i>	.. ..	Miss B. J. Tarbuck.
<i>Housing Visitor</i>	.. ..	Mrs. G. Thompson (Resigned 31/8/57).

I am indebted to Mr. Green, Manager of the Darlaston branch of the Ministry of Labour and National Service for the following report.

During 1957 an excellent level of employment was maintained in the industries of Darlaston, although, nationally there was a tendency for unemployment to increase.

The number of workers employed in the area was 13,485 males, and 5,912 females, a total of 19,397. This was about 2,000 less than the total for 1956, but this decrease was spread over all the industries in the town.

The number of unemployed persons registered at the Employment Exchange remain steady over the year, averaging 36 men and 19 women.

There was very little short time working, and the percentage of unemployment for Darlaston was far below the National figure.

There were no industrial disputes and relationships between employers and workers were maintained at a very high level.

SECTION A.

GENERAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

Area in acres	1,535
Registrar-General's estimate of the resident population in mid-1957	22,200
Comparability factor for deaths	1.46
Comparability factor for births	0.91
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books ..	6,164
Total Rateable Value (March, 1957)	£212,365
Industrial Rateable Value (March, 1957)	£41,339
Sum represented by a Penny Rate in 1957	£850

Live Births.

	M.	F.	Total.
Legitimate	189	164	353
Illegitimate	6	3	9
	—	—	—
	195	167	362
	—	—	—

Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population	16.3
Birth rate adjusted for comparison with other places per 1,000 of the resident population	14.8
Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 of the resident population	16.1
Death rate of infants under one year of age per 1,000	
Live births	16.5
Death rate for England and Wales of infants under one year of age per 1,000 related Live births	23.1
Neonatal death rate per 1,000 Live births	13.8
Neonatal death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 related Live births	16.5

Of the six deaths under one year of age the causes of death were :—

Prematurity	4
Broncho Pneumonia ..	2

Maternal Mortality.

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	Nil
Deaths from other causes associated with childbirth ..	Nil
Maternal Death Rate per 1,000 live and still births ..	Nil
Maternal Death Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births	0.47

Deaths.

Number of deaths from all causes	195
Death rate per 1,000 resident population	8.7
Death rate adjusted for comparison with other places ..	12.7
Death rate for England and Wales per 1,000 resident population	11.5

Still Births.

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	6	7	13
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	6	7	13
	—	—	—
Still Birth rate per 1,000 of the resident population ..			0.58
Still Birth rate per 1,000 live and still births ..			34.6
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales per 1,000 live and still births			22.5

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	4	2	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	4	2	6
	—	—	—

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age :—

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	3	2	5
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	3	2	5
	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATH ACCORDING TO REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN.

Disease.	Male.	Female.	Total.
Tuberculosis Respiratory	3	—	3
Tuberculosis, Other Organs	—	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic Disease	1	1	2
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	2	1	3
Malignant, Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus	6	—	6
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	—	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm Uterus	—	—	—
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	14	12	26
Leukaemia and Aleukaemia	1	—	1
Diabetes	1	—	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	16	15	31
Coronary Disease, Angina	16	10	26
Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	4	6
Other Heart Disease	8	10	18
Other Circulatory Disease	2	3	5
Influenza	4	1	5
Pneumonia	4	2	6
Bronchitis	10	2	12
Other Disease of the Respiratory System	1	—	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	1	2
Gastritis, Enteritis, and Diarrhoea	1	—	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	—	1
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	2	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Disease	9	20	29
Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1	3
All other accidents	1	—	1
Suicide	1	1	2
Homicide and Operations of War	—	—	—
Total all causes	107	88	195

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF DEATHS FROM CANCER, 1957.

Measles.

Measles accounted for 406 of the notifications during the year. The disease was mild generally. There were no hospital admissions, and no fatalities from the disease.

Whooping Cough.

There were 125 notifications and one hospital admission as a result of this disease. The immediate dangers and severe chest complications of Whooping Cough are still underestimated. The value of immunisation, though not completely effective, cannot be too frequently emphasised.

Cerebro Spinal Fever.

A boy was admitted to hospital suffering from Meningococcal Meningitis. He made a good recovery, and was fit to resume work soon after his discharge from hospital.

Encephalitis.

A boy aged two years suffering from Acute Encephalitis was admitted to hospital where he remained for some months, and he was still attending the Out-Patients Department at the end of the year.

Diphtheria.

One case where diphtheria was suspected, was found, on admission to hospital, to be suffering from tonsillitis.

Poliomyelitis.

There were no cases of Poliomyelitis notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever.

There was one confirmed case of Scarlet Fever compared with three cases in 1956.

Tuberculosis.

Detailed tables are included in the report showing the incidence and death rate from this disease in the post-war years. It will be noted that the mortality rate has decreased much more rapidly than the incidence during this period, due no doubt to the much more effective methods of treatment. There were no cases of Tuberculous Meningitis during the year. The value of B.C.G. vaccination of child contacts of Tuberculosis cases, and also of school children in their thirteenth year may be an important factor in the absence of this very serious disease.

Mass Radiography Survey.

Visit of the Mass Radiography Unit.

The survey was started towards the end of the year and completed in the early months of 1958.

In addition to the open sessions at the Town Hall, the unit was stationed at 12 factories in the district to facilitate visits by industrial workers. Much preliminary work was carried out in co-operation with the Medical Director of the Wolverhampton Radiography Unit, the Industrialists on whose premises the unit was stationed, and the staff of this department.

The response was satisfactory. In all 9,802 adults and 282 children were X-rayed. 11 cases of active Tuberculosis were found, and in addition 123 other abnormalities were discovered.

The last Mass Radiography Survey was carried out in 1955, when a total of 9,073 persons were X-rayed.

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

Year.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis				Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
	Under 24	25 to 54.	Ages.	Total.	
		55 and over.			
1945	11	6	2	19	2
1946	9	4	2	15	1
1947	6	2	4	12	3
1948	10	6	7	23	2
1949	5	7	4	16	—
1950	—	4	4	8	—
1951	1	5	1	7	4
1952	2	1	—	3	1
1953	—	5	1	6	—
1954	1	2	5	8	3
1955	1	1	2	4	—
1956	—	2	4	6	—
1957	—	2	1	3	—

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED SINCE 1945.

Year.	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Pneumonia.	Pulmonary Tuberculosis.	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
1945	21	34	127	52	18	30	2
1946	17	21	7	18	12	28	2
1947	17	55	311	51	16	30	3
1948	6	53	169	29	10	36	4
1949	2	39	133	25	10	23	—
1950	—	14	78	44	13	18	2
1951	2	16	175	74	9	30	5
1952	—	33	152	41	16	28	2
1953	1	28	342	89	27	36	1
1954	—	23	9	138	16	25	3
1955	—	13	355	30	10	20	—
1956	—	4	3	15	14	21	—
1957	—	1	406	124	4	18	3

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Disease.		No. of cases suspected.	Confirmed.	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	..	1	1	—
Whooping Cough	..	124	124	1
Anterior Poliomyelitis	..	—	—	—
Measles	..	406	406	—
Diphtheria	..	1	—	1
Pneumonia	..	4	4	2
Erysipelas	..	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	..	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	..	—	—	—
Dysentery	..	1	1	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	..	1	1	1
Paratyphoid Fever	..	—	—	—
Encephalitis	..	1	1	1

AGE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMON INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Age Group.	Scarlet Fever.		Whooping Cough.		Measles.		Pneumonia.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	..	—	11	2	9	14	—	—
1—2 years	..	—	10	15	38	30	1	—
3—4 years	..	—	13	16	68	42	—	—
5—9 years	..	1	34	22	95	105	—	—
10—14 years	..	—	—	1	2	2	—	—
15—24 years	..	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
25 and over	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Age Unknown	..	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Total	..	1	68	56	212	194	3	1

TUBERCULOSIS.
AGE DISTRIBUTION OF NOTIFICATIONS RECEIVED AND DEATHS OCCURRING DURING 1957.

Age.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Notified by Death		Deaths.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	Pulmonary M.	Non-Pulmonary M.
0—4 years ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—9 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
10—14 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—19 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—24 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—29 years ..	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
30—34 years ..	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—
35—39 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
40—44 years ..	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
45—49 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
50—54 years ..	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—
55—59 years ..	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
60—64 years ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 years ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total all ages ..	11	8	3	1	—	—	3	—

SECTION C.**GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE YEAR.****Public Health Laboratory Service.**

The Public Health Laboratory, Martin Street, Stafford, deals with any bacteriological or bi-chemical investigation of disease found to be necessary.

Infectious Disease Hospitals.

Admission to these is arranged through the Public Health Department, or in emergency, on application by the General Practitioner direct to the Hospital.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment can be obtained either at the Manor Hospital, Walsall, or the Royal Hospital, Wolverhampton.

General Hospitals.

Admission is arranged by the General Practitioner direct with the Hospital.

Maternity Hospitals.

The patient's doctor arranges admission as necessary, on medical grounds. If admission on any other grounds is thought desirable application should be made to the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.**Infant Welfare Clinics.**

These are held at the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Monday and Thursday afternoons each week, and also at the Welfare Hall, Wolverhampton Road West, Bentley, on Friday afternoons.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

A weekly session is held at the Jane Mills Institute, Rectory Avenue, Darlaston, on Wednesday mornings.

Health Visitors.

Mrs. McMillan and Mrs. Greatham are the Health Visitors working in this district. They can usually be contacted at the Jane Mills Institute during the day, and they also attend the above clinics.

Domestic Help.

The service for this district is administered by the Area Medical Officer, 20, Hydes Road, Wednesbury—Telephone No. Wednesbury 0961/2. The service is provided where necessary in cases of sickness, childbirth, infirmity, or other household emergencies.

District Nurses.

There are three district nurses practising in the district. When their services are required the family doctor will normally make the arrangement.

Midwifery.

There are three domiciliary mid-wives employed by the Staffordshire County Council practising in this district. Below is a list of their names and addresses :—

Mrs. E. Sullivan, 13, Slater Street, Darlaston.
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2324.

Mrs. E. M. Harris, 38, Victory Avenue, Darlaston.
Telephone No. : James Bridge 2603.

Mrs. V. M. Carroll, "Glenroy," Walsall Road, County Bridge, Willenhall.
Telephone No. : Willenhall 110.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

- (a) Vaccination against Smallpox is usually carried out by the General Practitioner.
- (b) Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough is performed at the Infant Welfare Clinics each week, mostly on children between the ages of 3 and 12 months.
- (c) Vaccination against Poliomyelitis. Special sessions are arranged as the vaccine becomes available for children in the selected age groups.

SECTION D.**National Assistance Act, 1948.**

During the year no action was taken under Section 47 of the above Act.

SECTION E.**Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**

Details of the work done during the year in connection with meat and other foods is given in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. There were no cases of food poisoning during the year.

SECTION F.**HOUSING.**

I am grateful to Mr. Knight, Housing Supervisor, for the following report :

During 1957, 54 houses were let, of these 41 were allocated to applicants on the general need list and 13 allocated to slum clearance. There were 26 re-lets during the period, which resulted in the re-housing of 14 general need applicants, 7 old aged pensioner applicants and 8 slum clearance tenants. Also during the period 26 exchanges were effected involving 56 tenants. The housing list at the end of 1957 consisted of :—

8 applications from single persons ;

247 applications from persons with two in family (childless couples) ;

144 applications from persons with three in family ;

46 applications from persons with four or more in family ; making a total of 445.

Generally speaking there is very little difficulty in re-housing the normal applicants for a house but many and varied difficulties are experienced in re-housing from slum clearance. Tenants of houses in the centre of the town do not always wish to move to Bentley. This particularly applies to the older tenant who has lived in his or her house for many years and desires to remain in the area where they are living. Illness of tenants in slum clearance property, where they are having to be looked after by relatives, also creates a problem and it is necessary for special consideration to be given to these people. The solution is, of course, to encourage more tenants of pre-war houses near the town to accept houses at Bentley and to release their houses for re-letting.

SECTION G.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water Supply.

The main part of Darlaston's water supply comes from the South Staffordshire Waterworks Company and the remainder is supplied by the Wolverhampton Water undertaking. Regular samples were taken during the year and found to be satisfactory in quality and quantity.

I am indebted to R. A. Robertson, Esq., B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Engineer in Chief, South Staffordshire Waterworks Company for the following report :—

1. The water supply to the Urban District has been satisfactory in quality and quantity.
2. The supply is obtained from groups of pumping stations in the neighbourhood of Cannock and Lichfield and from surface sources outside the Urban District.

Water from all sources is examined regularly both bacteriologically and chemically and where treatment is practised, both before and after treatment.

During 1957, 78 out of 81 samples taken from two of the Pumping Stations from which a large proportion of the water normally supplied is obtained, were free from coliform bacteria.

Routine samples from the Waterman's house at Slater Street, Darlaston, were examined and twelve samples were all free from coliform bacteria.

These samples were also examined chemically and the average results for 1957 were as follows :—

pH	..	..	..	..	7.5	
Alkalinity (CaCO ₃)	..	..	141		parts per million.	
Chlorides (Cl)	..	..	74.9	„	„	„
Ammoniacal Nitrogen (N)	..	Trace		„	„	„
Albuminoid Nitrogen (N)	..	.023		„	„	„
Oxidised Nitrogen (N)	..	2.4		„	„	„
Oxygen absorbed (3 hr. at 27°C)		.29		„	„	„
Temporary Hardness	..	135		„	„	„
Permanent Hardness	..	43		„	„	„
Total Hardness	..	178		„	„	„
Iron (Fe)	..	.04		„	„	„
Manganese (Mn)	..	Trace		„	„	„
Poisonous Metals (Cu & Pb)	..	Nil		„	„	„
Free Cl	..	..	..	Nil	„	„

3. The water is not liable to plumbo solvency, the 12 samples from the Waterman's house being free from lead.
4. Chlorination is practised at most of the pumping stations largely as a precautionary measure. Emergency chlorination is performed in cases of emergency such as burst mains, etc., and special staff and apparatus are available for this purpose. New mains are chlorinated and not brought into use until a sample of water from them is proved satisfactory.

Sewage Works.

I am grateful to Mr. Ewart, Engineer and Surveyor, for the following information :—

The capacity of the Darlaston Sewage Works is for a population of 21,000, based on a water consumption of 25 gallons per head per day which is a dry weather flow of 525,000 gallons per day.

During the year some improvements were carried out at the Sewage Works. In May screen spaces were increased from $\frac{1}{2}$ -in. to $1\frac{3}{8}$ -in. to avoid overnight blocking of the flow of sewage. In the following month an adjustment was made in the overflow to allow an increase in the flow to full treatment.

The Gas engines operating the compressors were replaced by two electric motors. By altering the weirs the proportion of dry weather flow was increased, so that nothing goes to storm water until the figure of 3.8 times dry weather flow is reached.

The pumping control in the Bentley Area had its floats adjusted to ensure a more sensitive and frequent response to alterations in the level of the flow.

In addition minor adjustments were taking place as required during the year.

Annual Report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector

For the year 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I submit the report of the work of the Department during the year 1957.

Due to the increasing cost of producing the Annual Report, an attempt has been made to condense the information presented, without reducing its value.

Consequently it is not my intention to prolong this introduction but to reserve comment for the various sections as they arise.

No less than in previous years, the results set out in the following pages bear testimony to the combined efforts of Councillors and Officers and only by such co-operation can progress be maintained.

For my part, I cannot speak too highly of the support given by all the members of the Health Department and no less valued is the co-operation received from Officers of other Departments.

Yours obediently,

F. G. ASHCROFT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING ACTS, 1936 AND 1957.

(1) Action in respect of individual unfit houses.

(a) Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made :						
Great Croft Street : 6	..	..	..	..	..	1
New Street : 33a, 30	..	..	..	..	..	2
Park Street : 31	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bull Lane : 1, 2, 3	..	..	..	..	..	3
Dangerfield Lane : 2	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mill Street : 16	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bilston Street : 15, 15a, 16	..	..	..	..	..	3
Moxley Road : 105, 107	..	..	..	..	..	2
Engine Lane : 1, 2, 3	..	..	..	..	..	3
Pinfold Street : 64	..	..	..	..	..	1
Cramphill : 86	..	..	..	..	..	1
						—
						19
						—

(b) Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made :						
Factory Street : 17	..	..	..	..	..	1

(2) Clearance Area Action.

(a) The following Clearance Areas were declared by the Council :						
No. 20—Heath Road/Richards Street	..	..	..	..	..	15
No. 21—Bilston Street	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. 22—Foster Street/Walsall Street	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. 23—Church Street	..	..	..	..	..	3
No. 24—Catherine's Cross	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. 25—Mill Street	..	..	..	..	..	8
No. 26—New Road/High Street	..	..	..	..	..	11
No. 27—Bull Street	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. 28—Bull Street	..	..	..	..	..	5
No. 29—Wolverhampton Street	..	..	..	..	..	2
No. 30—St. George's Street	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. 31—Heath Road	..	..	..	..	..	6
No. 32—Cross Street	..	..	..	..	..	3
No. 33—High Street, Darlaston	..	..	..	..	..	5
No. 34—Wolverhampton Street	..	..	..	..	..	7
No. 35—Cross Street/Cramphill	..	..	..	..	..	5
No. 36—Bilston Street/Cramphill	..	..	..	..	..	7
						—
						110
						—

(b) Clearance Orders Declared and Confirmed.

No. 20—Heath Road/Richards Street	15
-----------------------------------	----	----	----

(3) **Houses which became void.**

		<i>Houses.</i>
(a) Formal action.		
Individual unfit houses—Demolition Orders	..	5
Individual unfit houses—Closing Order	..	1
Clearance Areas	.. .. ..	5
Clearance Orders	.. .. ..	11
(b) Informal action.		
Individual unfit house	.. .. ..	1
(c) Houses on land adjoining Clearance Areas	..	2
		<u>25</u>
		<u>—</u>

Housing Acts 1936 and 1957—Part III.**CUMULATIVE TOTALS.**

	Number of Dwelling Houses Demolished.		No. of persons displaced up to 31/12/57.	No. of Dwelling Houses made fit.
	Unfit Houses.	Other Houses.		
PART A.				
Clearance Areas :—				
(i) Land coloured "Pink"	275	—	1,072	—
(ii) Land coloured "Grey"	—	—	—	—
PART B.				
Improvement Areas	—	—	—	—

Part C.—occurring in 1957.

Unfit houses not included in Clearance Areas or Improvement Areas :—

(1) Houses demolished—Statutory action	.. ..	49
(2) Houses demolished—Informal action	.. ..	2
(3) Houses demolished on certificate by Medical Officer of Health as unfit for human habitation	.. ..	10
(4) Houses closed but not demolished as a result of undertakings (which have not been cancelled) by owners under Section 11 not to use the house for human habitation	.. .. .. ..	—
(5) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	.. ..	—
(6) Closing Orders (Local Gov. (Misc. Prov.) Act 1953)		1

Rehousing Progress.

The Housing Supervisor has supplied the following information:

New Houses Let.	No. Sub-Tenants Rehoused.	No. of Tenants Rehoused.	Old Age Pensioner Accommodation	Demolition Property Vacated.
52	54	22	8	24

House Building.

The following houses were erected by the Council:

Street.	One Bedroom.	Two Bedrooms	Three Bedrooms	Four Bedrooms
Attlee Road	—	—	5	—
Bevin Road	—	8	—	—
Monmouth Road	—	17	—	—
Poplar Avenue	—	17	5	—
Total of each type	—	42	10	—

Total of all types—52.

In addition 13 houses were built by Private Enterprise.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

(1) (a) Houses inspected for housing defects (Public Health or Housing Acts)	246
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	247
(2) Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit	131
(3) Houses (exclusive of those in (2) above) found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation ..	104

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices.

Defective houses, rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	63
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year.

(a)	Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Acts 1936 and 1957.	
(i)	Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
(ii)	Houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	—
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(i)	Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	40
(ii)	Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a)	By owners	54
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	—

Housing Visitor (for Council-owned property).

The survey has continued and though houses are found where conditions are not up to the standard which could reasonably be expected, these cases are very much a minority, and experience suggests that the majority will respond to persuasion.

It is particularly pleasing to see the very great improvement which often takes place when a family is moved from depressing housing conditions to a new Council house.

Total number of visits made to Council houses 2,507
 Number of visits to sub-standard Council houses 144

Housing Act, 1949.

Improvement Grants.

Grants totalling £493 5s. 0d. were approved by the Council in respect of the following four houses:—

Cope Street 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Dorsett Road 85	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Pinfold Street Extension 10	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
St. John's Road 17	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Work was completed at the following houses :—

Cope Street 7	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Forge Road 18	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Gladstone Street 31 and 33			..	..	..	..	2
Pinfold Street Extension 10			..	..	..	..	1
St. John's Road 17	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Wolverhampton Street 13, 15 and 19			..	..	..	..	3

Rent Act, 1957.

This Act came into operation on July 6th, 1957.

Part I.

Applications for Certificate of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for Certificates	..	..	12
(2) Number of decisions not to issue Certificates	..	..	1
(3) Number of decisions to issue Certificates :			
(i) in respect of some, but not all defects	..	..	5
(ii) in respect of all defects	..	..	5
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the first Schedule	..	..	3
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the first Schedule	..		Nil
(6) Number of Certificates issued	..	..	4

Part II.

Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7) Applications by landlords to Local Authority for Cancellation of Certificate	..	..	..	..	Nil
(8) Objections by tenants to Cancellation of Certificates	..				Nil
(9) Decisions by Local Authority to Cancel in spite of tenants' objection	..	..	..	..	Nil
(10) Certificates Cancelled by Local Authority	..	..			Nil

Public Health Act, 1936.

Items in respect of which Informal Notices were served	..	923
Items in respect of which Abatement Notices were served	..	80
Items which were complied with	..	924

Mortuary.

It is unfortunate that this building has a glass roof for, during hot weather in the summer, difficulties were experienced with bodies in the Mortuary. Following discussions with the Inspector of Police, temporary measures were agreed upon to prevent a recurrence of these difficulties. A more desirable and permanent solution is the provision of a chill room in which bodies can be kept at a controlled temperature pending removal. This has been agreed to by the Health Committee and it is hoped to have the chill room installed early in 1958.

During the year, 20 bodies were received into the Mortuary.

Post mortem examination was performed in 17 cases.

Public Baths.

The building is of modern construction and, by virtue of its design and construction, compares favourably with any in the Midlands. Full provision is made for heating, filtering, and sterilising the 133,000 gallons of water contained in the swimming pool. Slipper and shower baths are available. Periodic samples of the swimming pool water are taken and submitted for both chemical analysis and bacteriological examination.

Infectious Disease, Disinfection and Disinfestation.

Visits to infectious disease cases	1
Premises disinfected after infectious disease	1
Terminal disinfection following deaths from Tuberculosis ..	2
Premises disinfested in connection with verminous conditions	52
Destruction of Bedding	21

Moveable Dwellings.

As in past years, gypsies visited their usual haunts but as a result of prompt action by the Inspectors and excellent co-operation from the Police and the owners of the land, no settling in occurred. In all, 25 caravans of this type were moved on.

One application was received for licensing, the applicant being in temporary housing difficulty. A licence for three months was issued.

Refuse Collection.

The Engineer and Surveyor has supplied the following information :—

1957.	Refuse.	Waste Paper.		
		Tons.	T. C. Q.	£ s. d.
January	694	12 11 0	97 9 6	
February	667	14 1 0	110 8 6	
March	669	14 19 2	116 16 3	
April	640	14 16 0	115 4 0	
May	746	13 18 0	108 5 0	
June	616	11 18 1	89, 6 10	
July	735	13 19 0	108 15 6	
August	652	14 1 1	110 16 10	
September	644	13 8 1	100 11 10	
October	722	14 9 1	108 9 4	
November	722	12 19 0	102 1 6	
December	738	13 7 2	106 6 9	
Totals	8245	164 8 0	1274 12 10	

Meat and Foods.

At the beginning of the year there were two licensed slaughterhouses in the district, both of which were owned and operated by Pork butchers. One was leased on a part time basis to the Council, but, in February, the owners gave up business, and this lease was therefore terminated. Inquiries were made in the districts adjoining, and the Council were satisfied that adequate facilities existed elsewhere for butchers who had previously slaughtered in the Council operated slaughterhouse.

Receipts from slaughtering on the Council leased premises came to £15 6s. 0d.

Number of persons registered as slaughtermen : 15.

ANIMALS SLAUGHTERED FOR SALE FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION.

Carcases and Offal inspected and found unfit in whole or in part.

	Cattle (excluding Cows).	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed	5	90	1324	—
Number inspected	5	90	1324	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	181	—
Percentage of the number inspected, affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	1.1%	13.7%
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	30	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	—	2.2%
Cysticercosis.						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—

Unfit Food.

At the request of traders, considerable quantities of tinned goods, fish, bacon, etc., are inspected each year, and the system of voluntary surrender against certificates of unfitness is operated. By this system, no trader has any excuse for having unfit food in his possession.

During the year, 758 lbs. $7\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. of a wide range of foods was certified as unfit, voluntary surrender accepted and disposal arranged.

Disposal of Unfit Food.

Tinned goods which are not suitable for disposal by burning are transported to the Town Hall Yard where a workman smashes the tins to render the contents unusable. The resultant articles are then conveyed to the Council's controlled tip where they are deposited at the base of the working face and the day's refuse deposited on top and consolidated to ensure there is no nuisance from fly breeding or smells and no opportunity given for rats to feed on this food.

Items of food such as parts of pig carcases, loose ham, etc., which are suitable for destruction by burning are, immediately after surrender to the Inspector, taken by a Council workman to the Council's Incinerator and forthwith destroyed by burning. The arrangements are such as to ensure that there is no possibility of any unfit food of this nature being diverted and finding its way to the public.

Fortunately there exists a very high degree of co-operation between the traders in the town and the staff of the Health Department which ensures adequate disposal of any unfit food.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

(i) Number of Food premises in the Area.

			<i>No. of</i>	<i>No. of</i>
			<i>premises.</i>	<i>visits.</i>
Civic Restaurants	..	..	1	4
Restaurants, Snack Bars, etc.	..	..	9	6
Bakehouses	..	..	5	16
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	16	28
Butchers	..	..	30	37
Bacon Factories	..	..	2	77
Grocers	..	..	123	54
Green Grocers	..	..	22	15
Wet Fish Shops	..	..	7	9
Slaughterhouses	..	..	2	101
Licensed Premises	..	..	76	238

(ii) Number of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955 :—

			No. of premises.	No. of visits.
Ice Cream Retailers	..	..	78	10
Manufacturers of Preserved Foods	..	..	8	17

Comments : Ice Cream Retailers are visited on receipt of application and the premises passed before being registered. Thereafter inspections are made during routine food premises inspections. There is only one retailer of loose ice cream in the district.

(iii) **Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.**

The following informal notices were served under the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955 :—

			Notices served.
Butchers	..	..	2
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	1
Greengrocers	..	..	1
Grocers	..	..	21
Licensed Premises	..	..	70
Food Preparers	..	..	1

Items contained on notices :—

Unsanitary Premises	..	..	11
Equipment—dirty or unsuitable	..	..	121
Food not adequately protected	..	..	10
Unsatisfactory water supply to W.C.	..	..	1
Dirty W.C.	..	..	7
Wrongly positioned W.C.	..	..	1
Unsatisfactory ventilation and Lighting to W.C.	..	..	122
Use of lobby to W.C. as food room	..	..	2
Absence of " Clean Hands Notice "	..	..	5
Absence of water supply	..	..	2
Absence of wash hand basin	..	..	9
Unsatisfactory or no hot water	..	..	29
Absence of soap, towel, or nailbrush	..	..	11
Absence of first aid outfit	..	..	2
Absence of clothes locker	..	..	1
Absence of cleaning and drying material	..	..	2
Inadequate lighting	..	..	4
Unsatisfactory ventilation	..	..	8
Dirty Food Room	..	..	50
Food rooms in need of repair	..	..	186
Accumulations	..	..	9
Food not maintained at correct temperature	..	..	1
Inadequate lighting to vans	..	..	1

Licensed Premises.

A considerable amount of work has been carried out in the Licensed Premises of this Town, as a result of visits made by members of this Department. In the case of practically every premises (the exceptions being new or recently reconditioned premises) a letter was sent to the brewery or tenant concerned pointing out the works necessary to bring the premises to a satisfactory standard of hygiene in accordance with the provisions of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, and the Public Health Act, 1936. There were comprehensive discussions with the brewers concerned, and a very satisfactory response from them. I feel that the Licensed Premises of Darlaston compare favourably with any in the Country, despite their age and high proportion compared with the size of the town. In one case proceedings were instituted against the tenant of a public house. Convictions on four counts were obtained, and fines totalling £2 0s. 0d. were inflicted. Before the Court hearing this tenant had left the premises concerned and ceased to be engaged in food business.

No. of premises inspected :—

Public Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	67
Off Licences ..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Clubs ..	..	..	..	..	..	5

Notices :—

Public Houses ..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Off Licences ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Clubs ..	..	..	..	..	..	5

PROSECUTIONS.

Taken under Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

Licensed Premises—8th May, 1957.

Five Summons heard by Court, eight withdrawn prior to Court proceedings ; as follows :—

Liquid filth in sump—Regs. 24, 32 (3), 33—Fined 10s. 0d.

Dirty outlets to beer engines—Regs. 6, 32 (3), 33—Fined 10s. 0d.

Dirty plastic beer pipes—Regs. 6, 32 (3), 33—Fined 10s. 0d.

Dirty walls, floor and ceiling to beer cellar—Regs. 23, 32 (1), 33—Fined 10s. 0d.

Dirty counter to bar, and shelves under bar—Regs. 23, 32 (1), 33—Dismissed.

Smoking in Butcher's Preparation Room—8th May, 1957.

Taken under Regs. 9, 32 (3), 33—Fined £2 0s. 0d.

Bakehouse—28th August, 1957.

Dirty floor and ceiling of preparation room. Regs. 23, 32 (1), 33—Fined £3 0s. 0d.

Sanitary conveniences connected directly to food room
Regs. 14 (4), 32(3), 33—Fined £2 0s. 0d.

Wooden walls to wash up room, incapable of cleaning. Regs.
23, 32 (1), 33—Fined £4 0s. 0d.

Wooden walls to ground floor store room incapable of cleaning.
Regs. 23, 32 (1), 33—Fined £5 0s. 0d.

Dirty roof timbers, walls and floor of upper store. Regs.
23, 32 (1), 33—Fined £3 0s. 0d.

Disrepair of floor of flour store. Regs. 23, 32 (1), 33—Fined
£3 0s. 0d.

Absence of adequate light in sanitary convenience. Regs.
14 (2), 32 (1), 33—Fined £2 0s. 0d.

Dirty bread cooling racks. Regs. 6, 32 (3), 33—Fined
£2 0s. 0d.

Dirty Flour Chute. Regs. 6, 32 (3), 33—Fined £2 0s. 0d.

Absence of satisfactory washing up sink. Regs. 19, 32 (1),
33—Fined £5 0s. 0d.

Absence of cupboard or locker for outdoor clothing. Regs.
18, 32 (1), 33—Fined £2 0s. 0d.

Absence of wash hand basin. Regs. 16, 32 (2), 33—Fined
£5 0s. 0d.

Unfit food on premises. Sect. 8 (1) Food & Drugs Act, 1955—
Fined £10 0s. 0d.

Obstruction of Authorised Officer. Section 105 (1) Food and
Drugs Act, 1955—Fined £5 0s. 0d.

MILK SUPPLY.

The whole of the milk supply in the district is designated,
approximately 75% of the milk retailed being sterilised.

There are no plants for the heat treatment of milk, and no
producers of milk in the district.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949-53.

Supplementary Licences—						
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..
Tuberculin Tested	..	..	..	..	..	..
Dealer's Licences—						
Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	..
Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	..

SAMPLING.

Dr. Ramage, County Medical Officer of Health, has kindly supplied the following information regarding samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and details of samples of milk taken to ascertain cleanliness and efficient pasteurisation.

List of Samples taken during the year 1957.

Milk.

Milk Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	11
Milk Sterilised	..	..	..	..	..	14
Milk T.T. Pasteurised	..	..	..	..	..	13
Milk T.T. Pasteurised (Channel Island)	..	..	..	..	..	6

All the samples were genuine.

General Foods.

Number of samples taken	..	..	..	..	36
Number of samples genuine	..	..	..	..	33
Number of samples adulterated	..	..	..	..	3

Classification of General Foods.

Pork Sausage cont. pres. Lard (2 samples). Corned Beef. Milk Chocolate Coconut Squares. Malt Vinegar. Black Beer. Tarrana Wine. Butter Mints. Vapormenth Pastilles. Cherry Cough Syrup. Liquid Paraffin B.P. Minced Meat Loaf. Chicken Fillets (Salt added). Ground Ginger. Pure Olive Oil. Sweet Stout. Strong Old Ale. Ice Cream. Baking Powder. Pancake and Batter Mixture. Crystallised Ginger. Cooking Fat. Self Raising Flour. Steak and Kidney Pudding. Roast Beef and two Veg. Ham and Chicken. Zinc and Castor Oil B.P. Sterilised Dairy Cream. Pork Sausage. Tomato Juice. Vienna Sausages. Minced Pork. Herbal Tablets. Chocolate Cream Shapes. Pearl Drops.

Classification of Adulterated Samples.

- *53 C/P—Black Beer—Formal—contains Sulphite Preservative to the equivalent to 400 parts per million by weight of Sulphur Dioxide.
- 38 C/B—Ham and Chicken—Formal—label does not comply with labelling of Food Order. Labels amended.
- 41 C/B—Pork Sausage—Formal—At least 18.6% and probably 23.8% deficient of its proper proportion of meat. Suppliers fined £5 with £10 17s. 0d. special costs at Wednesbury Stipendiary Court.
- *53 C/P—Not a beer but an alcoholic wine and preservatives are within the limit allowed.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION OF MILK SAMPLES TAKEN BY STAFFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
DURING 1957.

No. of Tuberculin Tested	Cleanliness.		Phosphatase Test.		Turbidity Test.		Methylene Blue Test.		Biological Fail.	
	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.	Pass.	Fail.
Tuberculin Tested	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
T.T. (Pasteurised)	18	—	—	18	—	—	—	10	1	—
Pasteurised	15	—	—	15	—	—	—	10	—	—
Sterilised	14	—	—	—	—	14	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	49	—	—	33	—	14	—	22	1	—

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 AND 1948 — (PART 1).

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	M/c. line No. (2)	Number on Register. (3)	Number of Inspec- tions. (4)			M/c. line No. (7)
			Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	Written Notices. (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	1	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	83	89	4	—	2
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers premises)	3	13	10	—	—	3
TOTALS		—	97	99	4	—

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	M/c. Line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found.			No. of cases in which prosecutions instituted.	
		Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector. (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector. (6)	(7)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
Want of Cleanliness (S1) ..	4	—	—	—	—	—
Over-crowding (S2) ..	5	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S3)	6	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S4) ..	7	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S6)	8	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S7)				—	—	—
(a) Insufficient ..	9	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or Defective ..	10	4	—	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ..	11	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	12	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS	60	4	4	—	4	—

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Number of licences issued to store Petrol or Petroleum Spirit	41
Number of gallons of Petrol or Petroleum Spirit stored	.. 57,725
Number of licences issued to store Carbide or Calcium	.. 3
Amount of Carbide of Calcium stored	.. 44 tons 8 cwts.
Income from licences	.. £35 0s. 0d.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The following treatments have been undertaken during the year :—

Business Premises (Factories, shops, etc.)	..	..	52
Private Dwelling Houses	..	..	44
Estimated Kill (Rats)	..	..	847
Estimated Kill (Mice)	..	..	290

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

One licence was issued, for the sale of Gold Fish only.

CINEMAS.

Annual inspections for licensing purposes were carried out at the local cinemas.

Minor improvements to the ventilating system of the projection box were carried out at one cinema, otherwise the premises remain satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Mg. per cubic metre.	Concentration of smoke.		Estimation of Sulphur Lead Peroxide Mg. SO ₃ /day per 100 sq. cms.		Deposited matter per month.		Total Solids Tons sq. mile	
	Average	Highest	Smoke Filter.		Ins. Rain.	Total Water Insoluble Matter Tons sq. mile		
			Lowest					
	Town Hall		Sewage Works.		Sewage Works			
January	.197	.577	.09	3.38	1.30	11.34	8.39	
February	.41	1.08	.08	3.52	2.29	11.90	9.74	
March				3.16	2.32	22.71	7.55	
April				2.25	0.20*	5.34	3.02	
May				2.12	0.55*	5.90	3.32	
June				2.51	1.06	9.68	12.73	
July				2.39	3.70	15.70	9.10	
August				1.80	3.51	9.69	9.56	
September				3.07	3.82	9.72	18.74	
October				3.70	1.58	13.44	12.52	
November	.256	.741	.058	2.83	2.13	3.18	7.94	
December	.24	1.06	.05	3.65	1.73	13.50	15.11	

* Rain water collected for 12 days only.

Bowcott & Son
Printers,
Wednesbury
Darlaston. 289